

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was the problem which Hume's essay "Of the Standard of Taste" addressed? Why did this problem appear impossible to solve within an empiricist framework? How did Hume try to argue for a "standard of taste" given his acceptance of Locke's empiricism? What is "the true standard of taste and beauty" for Hume?
2. What are the five defects in judgment, according to Hume, that render someone incapable of being a "qualified observer" and thus a "true judge" of beauty? What two additional sources of diversity in taste does Hume recognize and how does this present a problem for his theory?
3. What are the four "Moments" or things that are required in order to judge something as beautiful according to Kant? How does Kant's analysis here lead to a formalist aesthetics?
4. Explain Kant's concepts of "fine art" and "genius." How is it possible to make art, according to Kant, and how is art thus distinguished from craft?